

Exercise 1.1.6

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Exercise 1.1.6. If $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ is a probability space and if $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$, check that

- 1) $\mathbb{P}(A^c) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(A)$, where $A^c := \Omega \setminus A$,
- 2) $\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(B) - \mathbb{P}(A \cap B)$,
- 3) If $A \subset B$, then $\mathbb{P}(A) \leq \mathbb{P}(B)$.

Consider the definition of a probability space

Definition 1.1.5 (Probability space). A probability space $(\Omega, \mathcal{F}, \mathbb{P})$ consists of a measurable space (Ω, \mathcal{F}) and a function $\mathbb{P} : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ satisfying $\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = 1$, $\mathbb{P}(\emptyset) = 0$ and

$$\mathbb{P}\left(\bigcup_{j \in \mathbb{N}} A_j\right) = \sum_{j \in \mathbb{N}} \mathbb{P}(A_j)$$

whenever $A_j \cap A_k = \emptyset \forall j \neq k$. We call Ω the sample space, \mathcal{F} the event space, $\omega \in \Omega$ an elementary event and $A \in \mathcal{F}$ an event, and finally \mathbb{P} the probability measure.

Proof:

- 1.) Consider a set $A^c := \Omega \setminus A$. Since $A \cap A^c = \emptyset$ and $A \cup A^c = \Omega$, then by using the definition of a probability space, we get

$$\mathbb{P}(\Omega) = \mathbb{P}(A \cup A^c)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow 1 = \mathbb{P}(A) + \mathbb{P}(A^c)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \mathbb{P}(A^c) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(A)$$

Hence, $\mathbb{P}(A^c) = 1 - \mathbb{P}(A)$ with $A^c := \Omega \setminus A$.

- 2.) For $A, B \in \mathcal{F}$, consider the following relations:

i.) $A \cup B = (A \setminus (A \cap B)) \cup B$

ii.) $(A \setminus (A \cap B)) \cap B = \emptyset$

iii.) $A = (A \setminus (A \cap B)) \cup (A \cap B)$

iv.) $(A \cap B) \cap (A \setminus (A \cap B)) = \emptyset$

By using definition 1.1.5, relation (i.) and (ii.), we obtain

$$\mathbb{P}(A \cup B) = \mathbb{P}((A \setminus (A \cap B)) \cup B) = \mathbb{P}(A \setminus (A \cap B)) + \mathbb{P}(B)$$

Then, by using definition 1.1.5, relation (iii.) and (iv), we get

$$P(A) = P((A \setminus (A \cap B)) \cup (A \cap B)) = P(A \setminus (A \cap B)) + P(A \cap B)$$
$$\Leftrightarrow P(A \setminus (A \cap B)) = P(A) - P(A \cap B).$$

Then, by using the results above, we obtain

$$P(A \cup B) = P((A \setminus (A \cap B)) \cup B)$$
$$= P(A \setminus (A \cap B)) + P(B)$$
$$= P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B).$$

Therefore, we obtained

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B).$$

3.) If $A \subset B$, since $B = A \cup (B \setminus A)$ and $A \cap (B \setminus A) = \emptyset$, with $B \setminus A$ well defined for $A \subset B$, then by using the fact that $P(B \setminus A) \in [0, 1]$ by definition, we obtain

$$P(B) = P(A \cup (B \setminus A)) = P(A) + P(B \setminus A)$$
$$\Leftrightarrow P(B \setminus A) = P(B) - P(A) \geq 0$$
$$\Leftrightarrow P(B) \geq P(A).$$

Hence, if $A \subset B$, $P(A) \leq P(B)$. □